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In re Application of:

Mehmet C. OZ, et al.

Examiner: Unknown

Serial No.: 09/747,558

Art Unit: 3731

Filed: December 23, 2000

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CIRCULATORY VALVE REPAIR

September 12, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

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SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims:

29. (NEW) An apparatus for the repair of a circulatory valve having leaflets, said apparatus comprising:

a grasper having a fastener which is insertable through a blood vessel or through the chest and which is capable of grasping and coapting leaflets of the valve,

wherein the fastener may be selectively released from the grasper to fasten the valve leaflets in the position in which they are coapted.

30. (NEW) An apparatus as in Claim 29, wherein the grasper comprises a pair of jaws at a distal end thereof, wherein the valve leaflets are coapted between the jaws.